

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 269
By Newton

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lu Ellis on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Lu Ellis is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for nearly three decades, working with children, families, and staff at the Family Resource Center and the East Cleveland Early Childhood Center; and

WHEREAS, as an early childhood educator, she has brought to her position a well-deserved reputation for hard work and dedication which has been borne out by her years of meritorious service to children and their families; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-nine years of dedication to our children's education and development, Ms. Ellis will be taking a much deserved retirement at the end of March 2005; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of her community and her profession, Ms. Ellis, often referred to as "Ms. Lu," is well known and respected throughout Bradley County by her peers in the early childhood development field; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ellis has served full-time as a head teacher and both as a part-time and full-time assistant teacher in preschool settings; in each of these roles, she has benefited administrators, staff, and hundreds of children with her expertise, talent, and inspiration; and

WHEREAS, past directors of the East Cleveland Early Childhood Center have noted that as "the backbone of the program," Ms. Lu has helped facilitate a nurturing and educational environment: "She is kind, loving, creative and a good role model for the children. She takes time to work individually with the children and help them be successful"; and

WHEREAS, celebrated for her contagious enthusiasm and her unrelenting faith in her students, Ms. Lu is renowned for her dictum, “Don’t say I can’t, say I’ll try”; and

WHEREAS, she is considerate and responsive to children as individuals, and Ms. Ellis’ remarkable success as an early childhood educator is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored value of hard work, an astute understanding of people of all ages, and the ability to work well with those from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, realizing the importance of learning and growth in her own life, she obtained her Child Development Associate Credential in 2000, at the age of sixty-three, and received her renewal in 2003; over the past three years, Ms. Ellis has also attended more than 150 hours of training to continue her professional development; and

WHEREAS, Lu Ellis has received many commendations from both former students and staff, and, in 2004, she was honored as the recipient of the Lu Lewis Early Childhood Teacher Award, which is awarded annually to an outstanding teacher in early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ellis, is an extremely giving person who reaches out with compassion to people with a variety of life experiences, and she epitomizes the ideal of the compassionate educator, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Lu Ellis exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to children, families, and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Ellis has been a dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Lu Ellis, an educator of the utmost dedication, compassion, and integrity, our heartfelt thanks for her exemplary service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and offer our congratulations on the occasion of her retirement and our best wishes for her every future happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.